

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR NOVEMBER, 1911.

DISTRICT No. 5, UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

The month takes rank as one of the notably cold Novembers of recent years. Not since 1896 has the temperature averaged so low, and, with that exception, the month was the coldest of its name since 1880. There was much cold, windy, and generally disagreeable weather, and many days were of a decidedly wintry character, the conditions partaking largely of the nature of a winter month. The temperature variations were often sudden and of a marked character, and the extremes, both high and low, in the southern part of the district were almost if not quite of a record-breaking nature. The month was somewhat wetter than usual and a high percentage of the precipitation was in the form of snow. As a result of the adverse conditions prevailing generally, much inconvenience and great monetary loss was sustained in many parts of the district. In the North Dakota area the month was especially severe. Delay was experienced in railway traffic, much grain was left uncut and unthrashed, and stock suffered considerably; in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois severe local storms wrought great damage on the 11th, and in the latter State and in the Indiana area the work of harvesting the corn crop progressed but slowly, and at the close of the month much of it remained in the fields. The wet weather in those States caused a great quantity of corn to mold and rot.

The most important event of the month was the severe cold wave of the 11th and 12th. It goes on record as one of the most notable cold waves that ever visited the district. The area most affected included the southern quarter, but severe conditions prevailed elsewhere, only to a lesser degree. In southern Wisconsin, eastern Iowa, and northern Illinois the cold wave was ushered in by a series of violent local storms, some of which were of a tornadic character. In Rock County, Wis., 8 persons were killed, a dozen or more injured, and property damaged to an estimated extent of \$1,000,000; in Cass County, Ill., the financial loss is placed at about \$125,000, but no lives were lost, and in several other counties in that State the loss was considerable. A detailed report on some of those storms appears elsewhere.

TEMPERATURE.

The month was cold throughout the district, and in most parts of it decidedly so. At only a few stations did the deficiency in the mean temperature amount to less than 3°, while over a very considerable part of the district it exceeded 6°, reaching more than 10° over a part of the North Dakota area and in northern Minnesota. The average temperature for the district, 27°, is about 6.6° less than the normal, and about 3° less than the average last year. As usual, the warmest part of the district was southern Illinois, where at a few stations the mean temperature was above 40°, Cobden, with a mean of 43.2°, being the warmest station. Northward from southern Illinois

the mean temperature decreased at a uniform and rather rapid rate to the International Boundary, where the average temperature for the month was close to 10°, Hannah, N. Dak., the coldest reporting station, having a mean of 10.9°.

There was a remarkable difference in the highest temperatures experienced during the month in the southern and northern parts of the district. The 11th, with a maximum temperature well above 70° over a large part of the former section, was one of the warmest, if not the warmest, November day on record for that part of the district. At some of the warmest stations the highest temperature exceeded 80°, Hannibal, Mo., reporting the extreme reading observed during the month, 82°. From the latitude of northern Iowa northward the temperature did not, as a rule, rise above 50° at any time during the month, and over a considerable area in northern Minnesota the highest temperatures barely exceeded 40°. A fact worthy of note in this connection was the remarkable contrast in temperature conditions on the 11th. With a summer warmth prevailing in the southern part of the district, accompanied by temperatures of record-breaking character, this day in parts of the North Dakota area was extremely cold, the highest temperatures scarcely exceeding zero.

Over practically all the North Dakota area the 4th was the mildest day of the month; in Minnesota the highest temperatures in most instances were experienced between the 4th and 10th; in Iowa they occurred generally on the 10th, 11th, 25th, 26th, or 30th, while over the remainder of the district they were recorded almost universally on the 11th. Five cold waves swept over the district during the month. Only two, however, were of widespread character and of sufficient strength to affect the entire district, the remaining three being confined, in their greatest intensity, to the region north of the latitude of St. Paul. The cold wave of the 11th-12th was much the severest of those experienced during the month. In many respects it was one of the most remarkable cold waves in the history of the Weather Bureau. For magnitude and rapidity the fall in temperature has seldom, if ever, been equaled in the last 40 years, over the area most affected. The morning of the 11th in southeastern Iowa, the Missouri area, southern Wisconsin and Illinois was like April or May, with all the accompaniments of showery conditions at that time of the year. By midday the temperature was in the seventies over most of the area named, and the weather seemed hot and sultry. The wave of falling temperature entered northwestern Illinois about 12 noon, and 10 hours later had completed its southward sweep to the Ohio River, causing drops in temperature of from 60° to 68° in about 18 hours, which is one of the most phenomenal falls on record in this district.

The cold wave of the 14th-15th affected only the northern part of the district with marked severity, but it caused some very low temperatures in North Dakota and

Minnesota, a few stations experiencing readings lower than 30° below zero. Angus, Minn., reported a temperature of 36° below zero on the 15th, which is within 3° of the lowest temperature on record for Minnesota for November. It is probable that this is the lowest temperature ever recorded in the district so early in the season.

Like its predecessor, the next cold wave that visited the district, that of the 22d-23d, affected only the region north of St. Paul, Minn. Some stations in that territory experienced the coldest weather of the month at that time.

The cold wave of the 27th-28th overspread the entire district and relatively was most severe in the more southerly parts of the district. In the Missouri area the minimum temperatures observed on the morning of the 29th were within a degree or two of the lowest on record for November. There was a return to more seasonable conditions on the last day of the month, and the weather at that time was exceptionally pleasant in all parts of the district. At a few stations it was the mildest day of the month.

PRECIPITATION.

More than the usual amount of precipitation occurred over the district, considered as a whole, but the excess was not marked save in southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and extreme eastern Iowa, where the month was one of the wettest Novembers of record. At Dubuque, Iowa, the precipitation was the greatest of any November in the last 20 years. The average amount for the district was 2.02 inches, which exceeds the normal by about 0.40 inch. The heaviest fall reported was 5.47 inches, at Dixon, Ill., and the least was 0.10, at Pratt, N. Dak. In general, less than 1 inch occurred along and near the western boundary of the district as far south as Iowa, but thence eastward and southward there was a progressive increase. Over a considerable area in northern Illinois, where the amounts were greatest, more than 5 inches was reported. Much, if not all, the precipitation over the northern half of the district was in the form of snow, of which the average fall in that section was about 10 inches. At a few stations in northern Wisconsin, where the snowfall was heaviest, more than 2 feet were measured, and Vudesare in that region reported 37.6 inches. Only a trace of snow fell at two or three stations in Iowa, where the fall was lightest.

The distribution of precipitation was quite favorable in point of time. The 2d, 25th, and 30th were perhaps the only days without an appreciable amount in some part of the district. The most important wet periods covered the 5th-6th, 8th-11th, 17th-19th, 22d-23d, and 26th-28th. Snow flurries occurred generally over the northern States of the district on the 1st, as the result of the approach of a cold high pressure area from the Northwest. This high was of exceptional magnitude and was accompanied, at Des Moines, Iowa, on the 2d by the highest barometric reading ever recorded at that station in November. Mostly fair weather was the rule from the 2d until the afternoon of the 5th, when a well-defined storm began to affect the weather of the district, causing general precipitation during the next 24 hours. The fall for the entire storm was heaviest at Cairo, Ill., and the amounts diminished regularly toward the north. Another period of unsettled and stormy weather set in on the 8th and proved the most important of the month, culminating in severe local storms and a cold wave of marked severity, mention of which is made elsewhere. Excessive precipitation, the only occurrence of the kind during the

month, was reported from stations in Illinois on the 11th. A brief period of fair weather on the 12th and 13th was terminated on the 14th as the result of the approach of a disturbance from the North Pacific. The principal effect of this storm, however, was to cause snows north of the latitude of St. Paul. By the morning of the 17th, another storm center had advanced from Colorado to eastern Iowa, having been attended during the preceding 24 hours by light to copious precipitation over practically the entire district. This was one of the chief disturbances of the month. The 17th, under the influence of southerly winds, was one of the mildest days of the month in the eastern and southern parts of the district. Quickly following the last-named depression was another of minor intensity, which traversed about the same path as its predecessor. Quite general snows occurred on the 18th and 19th as a result of its presence. The next disturbance of importance manifested itself by the morning of the 22d, when it existed in trough-like form, stretching from Manitoba to Texas. Its eastward passage was marked by the occurrence of general precipitation in the southern States of the district, but only small and scattered amounts were reported in the north. The last storm of the month was of a slow-moving character. On the 26th, it was present over South Dakota, causing snow on that date over the North Dakota area and in Minnesota, but the remainder of the district did not come under its influence until a day or two later, so far as precipitation is concerned. Not until it had moved well to the eastward did any amounts of importance occur, when they were in the form of snow. This was the principal snow storm of the month over some of the southern sections. There was a return to fair weather on the 30th, and that day, Thanksgiving Day, was one of the most pleasant of the month in all sections.

RIVERS.

The Mississippi River fell steadily throughout the month, the stage at Dubuque decreasing from 11.8 feet on the 1st to 3.5 feet on the 30th. At Keokuk the stage permitted resumption of work on the power dam, which had been retarded by the high water. The river closed at Fort Ripley on the 12th, which is three weeks earlier than in 1910. At Prairie du Chien, Wis., and Le Claire and Davenport, Iowa, the river froze on the 25th, but the ice bridge opposite Davenport was broken during the high temperature of the 26th. At Dubuque the river remained open throughout the month, but heavy ice was running from that point to below Prairie du Chien during the last half. The Wisconsin River was open at Muscoda and Portage at the close of the month. The Illinois River was above flood stage during a part of the month. No damage resulted at Peoria, but at La Salle there was a considerable loss. About 15 per cent of the corn crop in the valley was destroyed. The Fox River at Ottawa, Ill., was frozen over on the 30th.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Northwesterly winds prevailed over the greater part of the district, and the wind movement was greater than usual for November. The highest velocity reported was 54 miles an hour at Hannibal, Mo., on the 11th in connection with the severe storm of that date.

There does not appear to have been a decided excess or deficiency in the sunshine anywhere in the district, but the amount for the district, as a whole, was probably somewhat less than normal. The average number of clear days was 10; partly cloudy, 7; cloudy, 13.

TABLE 3.—Maximum and minimum temperatures at selected stations, for November, 1911. District No. 5—Continued.

Date.	Missouri, Hannibal.		Indiana, Laporte.		Illinois.															
					Cairo.		Greenville.		La Salle.		Monmouth.		Mount Vernon. ^{§§}		Peoria.		Spring- field.		Winne- bago.	
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
1.	39	24	43	30	51	33	48	26	37	23	35	25	47	32	41	22	42	24	35	23
2.	35	20	34	27	37	25	38	21	35	19	39	16	31	20	36	17	34	20	35	18
3.	38	26	38	19	44	29	41	26	38	22	37	18	45	20	38	19	39	25	36	16
4.	45	34	41	20	44	36	44	35	40	34	45	32	50	28	41	31	47	35	39	31
5.	47	34	.....	.....	52	41	49	40	51	36	53	33	57	34	50	36	49	38	50	32
6.	58	46	.....	.....	69	52	58	46	52	45	50	39	64	44	52	42	56	44	47	40
7.	53	36	.....	.....	58	46	54	38	49	34	53	34	60	43	51	30	51	38	50	36
8.	56	36	.....	.....	56	45	54	40	50	28	53	27	66	42	51	28	53	36	45	25
9.	60	48	.....	.....	60	44	54	23	51	39	51	35	58	44	54	40	53	41	50	43
10.	72	47	.....	.....	67	57	64	50	63	48	60	39	68	42	62	48	66	47	57	43
11.	82	16	72	10	78	36	75	37	76	11	78	24	80	57	77	17	76	19	75	38
12.	19	11	.....	10	36	19	37	14	18	13	24	10	28	14	18	12	19	13	38	11
13.	31	16	.....	.....	31	18	28	14	29	13	31	11	32	12	29	12	28	13	29	9
14.	45	28	.....	.....	50	30	42	27	32	26	34	24	48	15	33	25	40	25	33	23
15.	39	28	30	15	66	38	49	28	29	20	34	23	60	29	34	23	39	27	30	20
16.	56	27	32	12	63	33	49	27	36	19	50	18	59	28	44	22	47	25	37	16
17.	61	30	53	26	63	35	57	33	53	27	50	32	60	28	53	29	56	32	45	30
18.	40	29	38	26	56	32	41	30	32	24	36	25	43	28	36	27	40	30	31	16
19.	47	31	35	21	54	36	40	33	36	19	35	22	44	37	38	21	41	30	30	15
20.	44	31	35	28	52	40	45	31	38	23	37	25	46	36	37	26	40	33	33	23
21.	43	27	38	25	50	32	42	26	38	22	40	19	46	25	38	22	38	27	35	20
22.	52	34	40	21	55	35	50	30	43	30	44	29	54	45	30	48	30	34	28	
23.	34	20	35	23	48	28	42	26	39	22	33	20	46	30	40	20	42	22	32	16
24.	33	16	30	20	30	25	32	26	30	20	31	12	31	21	31	18	31	20	30	22
25.	49	26	39	17	50	24	42	25	44	26	45	12	47	21	45	22	45	25	41	24
26.	58	34	48	25	60	36	57	32	49	31	52	34	59	24	50	28	54	34	49	28
27.	47	29	46	31	55	41	51	37	51	34	44	34	50	32	53	32	54	36	46	33
28.	29	14	43	28	48	23	40	20	34	21	34	19	32	28	32	18	39	19	39	21
29.	20	6	30	12	25	19	23	15	24	9	19	2	24	17	19	6	20	10	22	2
30.	38	19	32	12	45	18	37	16	36	17	40	15	40	15	35	13	37	16	34	14
Mns.	45.7	27.4	39.6	21.6	51.7	33.5	46.1	29.6	41.1	25.3	42.2	23.6	49.2	20.0	42.1	24.5	44.1	27.8	39.6	23.9

^a, ^b, ^c, etc., indicate respectively, 1, 2, 3, etc., days missing from the record.

Data are from standard instruments not supplied by the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Instruments are read in the morning; the maximum temperature then read is charged to the preceding day, on which it almost always occurs.